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EXAMINER

HUYNH, SON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/649,788

Applicant(s)

WONG ET AL.

Examiner

Son P Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4 and 5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-17, 19-28, 30-32, 38-48, 50-53, 55-61, 63-69, 71-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ellis (WO 00/04709).

Regarding claim 1, Ellis teaches a system for facilitating programming of an associated device (storage device), comprising:

a client system configured to receive a message having an associated token (user television equipment 22, remote program guide access device 24, configured to receive a message having an associated program guide data – page 29, line 17+);

wherein the client system (user television equipment 22 (hereinafter referred to as 22) or remote program guide access device 24 (herein after referred to as 24) is configured to program operation of the associated device (storage devices 31, 32, 49, 47, 56 – figures 3-5) based on the token indicating program criteria

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(based on the program guide information indicating program titles, times, channels, etc. figures 3-5, 7, 19 and page 54, line 27+).

Regarding claim 2, Ellis teaches the associated device is a recording device operative to record at least one of audio and visual programming (page 54, line 27+).

Regarding claim 3, Ellis teaches the recording device is a digital recording apparatus (e.g. digital storage device 31, page 40, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 4, Ellis teaches a programmable program list is operatively associated with the digital recording apparatus, the program list including program criteria indicative of selected programming to be recorded based on the token (page 39, line 20+).

Regarding claim 5, Ellis teaches the message is an electronic mail message (page 29, line 18 – page 30, line 15; page 45, line 14+).

Regarding claim 6, Ellis teaches the token (program guide information) is an attachment to the electronic mail message (page 29, line 18+).

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Regarding claim 7, Ellis teaches the electronic mail message is received by the client system from a remote server system (television distribution facility 16 – page 29, line 18 and figure 2d).

Regarding claim 8, Ellis discloses the client system (22 or 24) accepts program guide information and recording request from 22 or 24 and, in turn, program to record selected programming based on each accepted program guide data and recording request (page 16, line 20 +). Inherently, the client system (22, 24) includes computer executable instructions for automatically accepts tokens (program guide information and recording request) from a predetermined source (remote control 40 or user interface 52) and, in turn, programming to record predetermined programming based on each accepted token (record selected program based on each accepted program guide data and recording request).

Regarding claim 9, Ellis discloses the user selection of a program to be recorded is sent to storage device 31, 32, or 56 for schedule to recording device to record the selected program (page 16, line 20+). Inherently, the program message including a token having program criteria selected at the client system (e.g. channel, time, title, etc.)

Regarding claim 10, Ellis teaches a system as discussed in the rejection of claim 9. Inherently, the token of the program message has program criteria indicative of at least one of predetermined audio and visual programming selected at the

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client system (e.g. title of the selected program to be recorded – page 54, line 27+).

Regarding claim 11, Ellis teaches the message is an electronic mail message (page 29, line 18 – page 30, line 15; page 45, line 14+).

Regarding claim 12, Ellis teaches the token (program guide information) is an attachment to the electronic mail message (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claim 13, Ellis teaches a remote device (24 – figure 6b) operative to send to the client system (22) an electronic message via a remote server system (61- figure 6b), the electronic message having the token indicative of the selected program criteria (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claim 14, Ellis discloses the program selected by the user is recorded in a predetermined storage device based on the information provided in the message– page 54, line 27+). Inherently, the client system is programmed to automatically program the associated device based on the token being predetermined program criteria.

Regarding claim 15, Ellis teaches a system for facilitating recording of at least one of audio and visual information, comprising:

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a recording device (31, 32, 56, figures 3-5) programmed to receive electronic message having a token associated with (program guide information and recording request are sent as messages— page 29, lines 18-27), the token having program criteria indicative of at least one of selected audio and visual broadcast programming, the recording device being programmable to record a predetermined broadcast program based on the token (storage device is scheduled to record the selected program based on the information provided in the request — page 54, line 27+).

Regarding claim 16, Ellis teaches a client device (set top box 28 or remote control 40 — page 16, line 24+, or interface 52— page 39, line 20+) which communicates with the recording device (31, 32, 56 — figures 3-5) for programming operation of the recording device based on the program criteria of a corresponding token.

Regarding claim 17, Ellis teaches the client device (e.g. set top box 28 figures 3-4 and page 25, line 18+) is programmed to program operation of the recording device in response to accepting the corresponding token at the client device (schedule program recording in response to accepting program recording request, and record the requested program when scheduled time is approached — page 54, line 27+).

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Regarding claim 19, Ellis teaches the broadcast programming identified by the token is broadcast at a predetermined time on a predetermined channel for a predetermined duration (figure 8).

Regarding claim 20, Ellis teaches the client device (e.g. 22, 16, 24 – figure 6b) is programmed to send an electronic mail message to a selected recipient system (22, 24 – page 35, line 26+), the email message including a token (program guide information) having program criteria (program times, channels, etc.) indicative of broadcast programming selected at the client device (page 29, line 18+ and figure 7).

Regarding claim 21, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations of claim 13, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claim 22, Ellis teaches a remote client device (40 or 24 – figures 3-5) programmed for sending an electronic mail message to the recording device (31, 32, 25, 56 – figures 3-6b) having a token indicative of the selected broadcast programming (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claims 23-24, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations of claims 3, 6 respectively, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 3, 6.

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Regarding claim 25, Ellis teaches a system for facilitating programming of a recording means (25, 31, 32, 56 – figures 3-5), comprising:
means (27, 58, 61- figures 2d, 5, 6c) for receiving a message having a token (program guide information) associated with the message, the token having program criteria indicative of a selected broadcast program (page 9, lines 15-23; page 29, line 18+);
means (e.g. set top box 28) for programming the recording means to record the selected broadcast program based on the program criteria of the token (page 16, line 24+).

Regarding claim 26, Ellis teaches the broadcast program correspond to at least one of audio and visual programming (page 17, line 31+).

Regarding claim 27, Ellis teaches the message is an electronic mail message (page 29, line 18 – page 30, line 15; page 45, line 14+).

Regarding claim 28, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations of claims 24, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 24.

Regarding claim 31, Ellis teaches means (40, 28, 52, 24 – figures 3, 5) for selecting broadcast programming and sending an electronic mail message indicative of the selected broadcast programming (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claim 32, the limitations of the method as claimed correspond to the limitation of the system as claimed in claim 1, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 38, Ellis teaches the associated device is a recording device (storage devices 31, 32, 25, 56 47, 49 figures 3-5), the method further including selecting broadcast programming at a remote client system (22 or 24, 231 – figures 6a-6c) and sending an electronic mail message to the recording device having the token indicative of the selected broadcast programming (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claim 39, Ellis teaches a method of programming a recording system, comprising:

receiving a token describing at least one of audio and/or visual program content (receiving request includes program guide information of program to be recorded at remote access device 24 or user equipment 22 – page 16, line 24+);

requesting information from a server (e.g. facility 16 – figure 6a) sufficient to allow the recording system to record the audio and/or visual program content described by the token (page 54, line 27+);

receiving the requested information from the server (receiving the recording information from the server – page 55, line 2+);

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programming the recording system to record the audio and/or visual program content describer by the token (page 55, line 2+).

Regarding claim 40, Ellis teaches recording the audio and/or visual program content at the recording system (page 55, line 11+).

Regarding claim 41, Ellis teaches a system to facilitate programming of an associated recording system, comprising:
a client system (22, 24 – figures 3-5) programmed to receive a message from a remote computer system (24, 16, 231 – figures 6a – 6c), the message including a token representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program (the message includes program guide information representing a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program – page 29, line 18+); wherein the token is translated into a suitable format for programming the recording system to record the corresponding program (page 12, line 28- page 14, line 14; page 17, line 1- col. 19, line 17; page 23, line 18+).

Regarding claim 42, Ellis teaches the suitable format of the token includes data indicative of at least two of time, date, and channel for the corresponding program in a local tuning space (channel, storage device) associated with the client (figures 10-11).

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Regarding claim 43, Ellis teaches the token is translated into the suitable format in response to the receiving the token at the client system (page 45, line 15+).

Regarding claim 44, Ellis discloses the user enter password and adjust the program guide parental control settings, setting favorites, etc. (page 25, line 24+). The recording information includes information indicating the user who scheduled a program for recording (page 40, line 3+). Inherently, the token includes authentication data, the token being translated into the suitable format upon authentication of the token at the client system.

Regarding claim 45, Ellis discloses program guide distribution equipment 21 may include, for example, suitable transmission hardware for distributing program guide data on a television channel sideband, in the vertical blanking interval of television channel, using an in band digital channel, using an out of band digital signal, or any other suitable data transmission technique (page 10, line 15+). Communication paths 20 and paths 19 may be any suitable wired or wireless communications paths (page 14, line 23+). Inherently, a "local translator system" is included at the client system for translate the token (program guide information contain in recording request) into the suitable format.

Regarding claim 46, Ellis teaches a translator system located at a remote server (e.g. distribution facility 16), the client system providing a token translation

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request to the translator system for translating the token into the suitable format (page 12, line 28+).

Regarding claim 47, Ellis teaches the token includes a plurality of tokens, each token representing a segment of the corresponding programs (program guide information includes program times, channels, titles, description, the title represents the title of the corresponding program – page 9, line 15+ and figure 8).

Regarding claim 48, Ellis discloses the program guide information comprises program listing data such as program times, titles, channels, description (page 9, line 15+). The program listing data is received and displayed on the screen as program guide display screens wherein the program guide information is organized in a predetermined order (figure 8). Inherently, the client system programmed to dynamically combined selected segments (title, channel, time) of the corresponding program in a predetermined order (e.g. display on the same row).

Regarding claim 50, Ellis teaches the token is an email message, the token being operatively associated with the email message (page 29, line 18+).

Regarding claim 51, Ellis teaches the token is an attachment to the email message (page 29, line 18+).

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Regarding claim 52, Ellis teaches a system to facilitate programming of an associated recording system, comprising:

a client system (16, 22, 24, 231 – figures 6a-6c) programmed to obtain a message from a remote computer system (12, 24, 22, or 231 – figures 1, 6a-6c), the message including a plurality of tokens (program titles, times, channels, descriptions – figures 7-11 and page 29, line 18+), at least some of the plurality of tokens representing different program segments (times, channels, description, titles) of a corresponding program of at least one of an audio and visual program (figures 7-11);

wherein each token associated with the corresponding program is translated into a suitable format and linked for programming the recording system to record and link each of the different program segments of the corresponding program (figures 8 – 11; page 12, line 28-page 14, line 14; page 17, line 1- col. 19, line 17; page 23, line 18+).

Regarding claims 53 and 55, the limitations correspond to the limitations of claims 48, 50, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 48 and 50.

Regarding claim 63, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations as claimed in claim 41, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 41.

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Regarding claim 64, the limitations of the method as claimed correspond to the limitations of the system as claimed in claim 41, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 41. Ellis further teaches local tuning space (storage devices 31, 32, 56, 47, 49) for recording the program.

Regarding claim 65, Ellis teaches the translation occurs in response to receiving the message at the client system (page 13, line 4+).

Regarding claim 66, Ellis discloses the user enters password and adjust the program guide parental control settings, setting favorites, etc. (page 25, line 24+). The recording information includes information indicating the user who scheduled a program for recording (page 40, line 3+). Inherently, Ellis teaches including authenticating the token at the client system, wherein the translation occur after the authentication of the token (providing or displaying the program guide information after receiving user request of the program guide information – page 13, line 2+).

Regarding claim 67, Ellis teaches connecting to a server system (e.g. 12 or 16 – figures 1, 6a-6c), submitting to the server system a translation request, and receiving at the client system the local programming data for the program represented by the token (page 13, line 2+);

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Regarding claim 68, Ellis teaches translating at least some of the program criteria (categories, titles, times, etc.) into the local programming data at the client system (figures 7-11).

Regarding claim 69, the limitations of the method as claimed correspond to the limitations of the system of claim 48 and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 48.

Regarding claim 72, Ellis teaches a method of programming a recording system comprising:

receiving programming information (page 9, line 12+);

receiving a token describing at least one of audio and visual content (program guide data – page 9, line 12+);

using the program information, programming the recording system to record the described at least one of audio and visual content (page 54, line 18+).

Regarding claim 73, Ellis teaches the programming information is stored in memory associated with the recording system (page 17, line 16+), the method including converting the received token into local programming data based on the stored programming information (convert to a suitable format for display – page 17, line 30+).

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Regarding claim 75, Ellis teaches a method of programming a recording system comprising:

receiving a token describing at least one of audio and visual content (receiving program guide data – page 9, line 12+);

determining whether the token is from an authorized source (block potentially objectionable programs, channels, services, genres, etc. page 36, line 27+);

transmitting a request to a server to provide information sufficient to allow the recording system to record at least one of audio and visual content described by the token (transmitting recording information associated with program selected to be recorded to distribution facility 16 for scheduling selected program to be recorded in specific storage device 31, 32, 47, 49, 56 – figures 3-5, 19 and page 54, line 27+);

receiving the information from the server (receiving recording information from distribution facility 16 – page 54, line 27+);

programming the recording system to record the at least one of audio and visual content based on the received information (programming the storage device 31, 32, 47, 49, 56 to record the selected program – 39, line 20+).

Regarding claims 56-61, the limitations as claimed are directed toward embodying the method of claims 64-69 in “computer readable medium”. It would have been inherent that the steps are all performed a “computer readable medium” in order that a processor could automatically perform the instructions.

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Regarding claims 71, 74 and 76, the limitations as claimed are directed toward embodying the method of claims 64, 72 and 75 in "computer readable medium". It would have been inherent that the steps are all performed a "computer readable medium" so that a processor could automatically perform the instructions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 49, 54, 62 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis et al. (WO 00/04709), and in view of Picco et al. (US 6,029,045)

Regarding claim 49, Ellis teaches a system as discussed in the rejection of claim 48. Ellis further discloses provides local non-program guide application such as stock ticker, chat data, etc. (page 61, line 3+). However, Ellis does not specifically disclose the client system is programmed to dynamically insert at

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least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

Picco teaches the client system 120 – figure 8) is programmed to dynamically insert at least one of a plurality of other program segments (e.g. local content) between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program (figures 9-11 and col. 3, line 1+). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to use the teaching as taught by Picco in order to program segments of different programs simultaneously thereby improve services.

Regarding claim 54, Ellis teaches a system as discussed in the rejection of claim 53. Ellis further discloses provides local non-program guide application such as stock ticker, chat data, etc. (page 61, line 3+). However, Ellis does not specifically disclose the client system is programmed to dynamically insert at least one of a plurality of other program segments between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program.

Picco teaches the client system 120 – figure 8) is programmed to dynamically insert at least one of a plurality of other program segments (e.g. local content) between adjacent pairs of the selected segments of the corresponding program (figures 9-11 and col. 3, line 1+). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to use

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the teaching as taught by Picco in order to program segments of different programs simultaneously thereby improve services.

Regarding claim 70, the limitations of the method as claimed correspond to the limitations of the system as claimed in claim 49, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 49.

Regarding claim 62, the limitations as claimed are directed toward embodying the method of claim 70 in "computer readable medium". It would have been obvious to embody the procedures of Ellis discussed with respect to claim 70 in a "computer readable medium" in order that the instructions could be automatically performed by a processor.

5. Claims 18, 29-30 and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis et al. (WO 00/04709), and in view of Lemmons et al. (US 6,266,814).

Regarding claim 18, Ellis discloses the user schedules a program for recording by selecting a program listing and issuing a suitable command. In response, the client device schedules the program for recording with the interactive television program guide. At an appropriate time, the program is recorded (page 54, line 28+). However, Ellis does not specifically disclose a programmable list, this list being modified based on the corresponding token.

Lemmons teaches a programmable list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded by the recording device (Recording List, col. 20, lines 22-41), the programmable list being modified based on the corresponding token being accepted at a client device (the menu choice "Add to Recording List" is used to add an entry for the selected program into a recording list – col. 20, lines 22-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to use the teaching as taught by Lemmons in order to improve convenient for viewer to select a desired program to be recorded.

Regarding claim 29, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations as claimed in claim 18, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 18.

Regarding claim 30, Ellis in view of Lemmons teaches a system as discussed in the rejection of claim 29. Lemmons further discloses the menu choice "Add to Recording List" is used to add an entry for the selected program into a recording list (col. 20, lines 22-41). Necessarily, the system including means for accepting the token, the modifying means being responsive to accepting the token.

Regarding claim 33, Ellis discloses the program guide provides user an opportunity to select a program for recording. User selects program listing and

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issues a suitable command. In response, the program guide schedules the program for recording with the local program guide implemented at the recording system. At an appropriate time, the program is recorded. However, Ellis does not specifically disclose modifying a programmable program list based on the corresponding token, the program list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded.

Lemmons teaches a programmable list identifying broadcast programming to be recorded by the recording device (Recording List, col. 20, lines 22-41), the programmable list being modified based on the corresponding token being accepted at a client device (the menu choice "Add to Recording List" is used to add an entry for the selected program into a recording list – col. 20, lines 22-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to use the teaching as taught by Lemmons in order to improve convenient for viewer to select a desired program to be recorded.

Regarding claim 34, Ellis teaches the broadcast programming is at least one of audio and visual programming (page 17, line 31+).

Regarding claim 35, Ellis teaches the token (program guide information) includes program criteria indicative of broadcast programming that is to air at a

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predetermined time on a predetermined channel for a predetermined duration (figure 8).

Regarding claim 36, Ellis in view of Lemmons teaches a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 33. Lemmons further discloses a menu choice "Add to Recording List" is used to add an entry for the selected program into a recording list (col. 20, lines 22-41). Necessarily, the token is accepted before the modifying (e.g. information of the program selected to be recorded is accepted before it is added into the recording list).

Regarding claim 37, Ellis teaches the accepting occurs automatically in response to the message being from a predetermined authorized source (e.g. a user operates the remote program guide access device 24 – page 25, line 18+).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Boyer et al. (US 2003/0066085) teaches Internet television program guide system.

Ellis et al. (US 2003/0149988 A1) teaches client server based interactive television program guide system with remote server recording.

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Hirata (US 6,374,406) teaches reception method, reception device, transmission method, and transmission device.

Maissel et al. (US 6,637,029) teaches intelligent electronic program guide.


Daniels et al. (US 2002/0100044 A1) teaches remotely controlling a video recorder.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-1889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Son P. Huynh
July 14, 2004



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER